

CONSTITUTION

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Proper Intelligence Is Necessity of Survival

President Kennedy has ordered a full-scale review of U.S. foreign intelligence services. After the fiasco in Cuba, such a review is in order. Certainly that adventure and the ensuing debacle could not have occurred except for bad information or interpretation or both.

The United States is a johnny-come-lately in this intelligence game. Associated in the public mind traditionally as "spying," our efforts until recent years were strictly amateurish. The armed forces had their intelligence branches but there was little coordination between them. Not until World War II did we learn how ineffective our efforts were.

Today when the United States has commitments in every area of the globe and when our survival depends upon having the correct information at the right time, it is time to place intelligence in proper perspective. Gathering information, evaluating it properly and relating it to national security is certainly beyond the category of mere "spying."

We trust that the committee appointed by the President will do a thorough job. Its personnel, headed by Dr. James R. Killian Jr., is a competent group. Such a study should not be conducted, however, as a public washing of dirty linen. Remembering Mr. Kennedy's warning about revealing secrets, responsibility should rule.

The Central Intelligence Agency supposedly is an improvement over our hit-or-miss methods of the past. Let's make it that in fact instead of in name.

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